

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 INR-10 /023 R

DRAFTED BY:EA/J:RNKILPATRICK
APPROVED BY:EA/J:NICHOLAS PLATT
DESIRED DIST:EA ONLY INR MR SYLVESTER INR MR GRIFFIN
-----056157 101350Z /41

R 100333Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU

S E C R E T STATE 061745

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PGOV, EGEN, JA, US, MARR

SUBJECT: WEEKLY STATUS REPORT - JAPAN, THURSDAY MARCH 9, 78

TO: EA - MR. HOLBROOKE

FROM: EA/J - NICHOLAS PLATT

1. IKEDA MISSION (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

AMBASSADOR TOGO WILL ACCOMPANY IKEDA (MITSUI), MASUDA (MITI) AND SIX OTHER LEADERS OF THE "SPOKESMAN GROUP" TO CALL ON DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER AT 10:00 ON MONDAY, MARCH 13, TO BEGIN THE TWO-DAY VISIT. THE GROUP WILL MEET WITH SOLOMON (TREASURY), TRADE SUBCOMMITTEE OF HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE, SENATE FINANCE AND FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEES, AMBASSADOR STRAUSS, SECRETARY MARSHALL, SECRE-

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TARY KREPS, AND WITH AFL-CIO LEADERS. A MEETING OF THE TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEE AT THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY LEVEL IS SCHEDULED. THREE CASES (COMPUTERS/DATA PROCESSING, TOBACCO AND MEDICAL EQUIPMENT) ARE TENTATIVELY ON THE AGENDA. THESE CASES HAVE BEEN BROUGHT BY FIRMS VIRGIN TO THE JAPANESE MARKETS. IF WE CAN MAKE SUCCESS STORIES HERE,

OTHER MORE EXPERIENCED FIRMS SHOULD BE PERSUADED THE GOJ MEANS BUSINESS.

2. PM STUDY ON JAPANESE DEFENSE IMPROVEMENTS (SECRET)

PM HAS PUT TOGETHER A THINK PIECE WHICH THROWS OUT SOME IDEAS ON HOW TO IMPROVE JAPAN'S DEFENSE POSTURE AND US-JAPAN SECURITY COOPERATION. IT IS A FORMIDABLY THICK DOCUMENT BUT IS WELL-WRITTEN AND CONTAINS SOME THOUGHT-PROVOKING IDEAS (E.G., A TRUCK-MOUNTED HARPOON MISSILE FOR SHORE AND STRAITS DEFENSE). IT SHOULD SERVE AS A WORTH-WHILE BASIS FOR INTRA-USG DISCUSSION. SOME PROPOSALS MAY EVENTUALLY BE APPROPRIATE FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE JAPANESE. PM HAS ASKED EA, DOD AND NSC FOR COMMENTS BY LATE MARCH. A COPY IS ALSO ENROUTE TO THE EMBASSY.

3. GOJ FEELER ON ADVANCE PAYMENT FOR US ENRICHMENT SERVICES (CONFIDENTIAL)

THE FOREIGN OFFICE INFORMALLY ASKED E/C MINISTER BUTTON LAST WEEK HOW THE US WOULD REGARD AN OFFER BY JAPANESE UTILITIES TO PREPAY THE COSTS OF URANIUM ENRICHMENT SERVICES TO BE PERFORMED IN THE US. THE EFFECT WOULD BE TO CONCENTRATE SEVERAL HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS' INCOME IN THE NEAR-TERM. WE ARE RE-EXAMINING WITH APPROPRIATE OFFICES IN EB, OES AND STR THE DESIRABILITY OF SUCH A COSMETIC "FIX" OF
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THE BILATERAL TRADE FIGURES AND EXPECT TO HAVE A DRAFT RESPONSE READY FOR UNDER SECRETARY COOPER'S CONSIDERATION WHEN HE RETURNS TO WASHINGTON IN THE MIDDLE OF NEXT WEEK.

4. BELATED KUDO(CONFIDENTIAL)

TOKYO 3093 IS A FIRST-RATE ANALYSIS OF FOREIGN MINISTER SONODA'S FIRST THREE MONTHS IN OFFICE. IT NOTES SONODA'S ACTIVIST APPROACH, HIS ASSERTIVE LEADERSHIP AND HIS TENDENCY ON OCCASION TO SHOOT FROM THE HIP. IT ALSO POINTS OUT, HOWEVER, THAT TO DATE HE HAS TENDED TO FOLLOW THE LEAD OF HIS FOREIGN MINISTRY ADVISORS. NVANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE061745
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EA/J:RNKILPATRICK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780108-0187
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780381/aaaacqwd.tel
Line Count: 106
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b497acc9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY, STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY, STADIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3370523
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WEEKLY STATUS REPORT - JAPAN, THURSDAY MARCH 9, 78 TO: EA - MR. HOLBROOKE FROM: EA/J - NICHOLAS PLATT
TAGS: PGOV, EGEN, MARR, JA, US
To: TOKYO
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b497acc9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014